From: Jeff Whicker
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/14/02 9:56am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I would like to add my voice to the 9 States and the European community in a plea to reject the proposed Microsoft settlement. The settlement provides no remedy for the past abuses of Microsoft's monopoly, and it provides no effective means of insuring that Microsoft will end it's abuse of that power.

I was very dismayed that the Monopoly was not broken up. Why should developers such as myself be given sub-standard documentation concerning Microsoft's APIs while Microsoft's own developers are given access to "secret" APIs? A company which owns the most popular operating system simply has no business being in software development. They are competing unfairly with the very community which MADE their operating system popular in the first place.

If the software community had not propelled Microsoft's OS to the forefront then it would be understandable that Microsoft would develope software to be written on it's own OS in an attempt to make their system more useable. But it obviously didn't happen that way. Microsoft first let companies like Wordperfect, Netscape, Lotus, Quicken, and thousands of others develope software for their OS. Then after their OS was already a monopoly, they went into direct competition with those companies and they did so entirely unfairly. They developed secret APIs which were never documented for the general community of software developers while documenting them fully to their own developers.

I realize that the proposed settlement prohibits Microsoft from continuing this practice. Yet the settlement does not make any remedy for the damage this practice has already done. Nor is any agency with real teeth going to be able to enforce the agreement. If Microsoft again fails to completely document it's own API's they will simply claim it was a mistake. And then only if they are caught. They need to be broke up.

Sincerely,

Jeff Whicker

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